

**HB 2156 - DIGEST**

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Recognizes the importance of maintaining the family unit and the significance of the relationship between a child and a parent. However, when a parent demonstrates an inability to care for his or her child, the state must act to protect the child.

Finds that when a child has been removed from the care of a parent who has demonstrated his or her inability to care for the child, it is not appropriate to return the child to the parent unless there is sufficient evidence that the child will be cared for and protected.

Finds that if the parent continues to demonstrate an inability or unwillingness to correct the deficiencies which led to the removal of the child, the child must not be placed in a situation in which he or she must live with uncertainty in his or her future.

Finds that there must be limitations upon the time a parent may be given to correct his or her parental deficiencies and that a parent must not be given repeated opportunities to have the child returned home when it is at the expense of the safety and stability of the child.